THE APPEARANCE OF LORD CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU

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CAST: Narrator, Jagannath Mishra, Shachi-Mata, Nilambara Chakravarti, 2 Demigods, Advaita Acharya, Moon and Rahu.

Narrator: *namah om visnu padaya krsna presthaya bhu-tale*
srimate bhaktivedanta svamin iti namine
namaste sarasvati deve gaura-vani pracarine
nirvisesa sunyavadi pascatya desa tarine
bhaja sri krsna caitanya prabhu nityananda
sri advaita gadadhara srivasadi gaura bhakta vrnda
Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare

Before the appearance of Lord Chaitanya, all the devotees of Navadvipa used to gather in the house of Advaita Acharya. They took great pleasure in always talking of Krishna, always worshiping Krishna and always chanting the *maha-mantra: Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare / Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare.* Sri Advaita Prabhu felt pained to see all the people without Krishna consciousness, simply wallowing in material sense enjoyment.

SCENE ONE

Outside Advaita Acharya's house

(Advaita Acharya walks on, looking very sad. There is a small altar of *Shalagrama-shila*)

Advaita: My heart is so heavy as I look all around, **(sighs)**
to see all the people by Maya tightly bound,
neglecting the *shastras,* which teach us life's goal:
PURE LOVE for Lord Krishna, which gives bliss to the soul.

(Advaita Acharya then walks around, thinking deeply. Then he performs a small *aratik* to *Shalagrama-shila.* Gurukula children sing for the *aratik*, after paying obeisances:)

O Lord, only You can show them the way
to become devotees, for this I do pray.
O come and deliver this world from all shame
teach them the glory of God's Holy Name.

SCENE TWO

Narrator: In the year 1486, in the month of Magha, Lord Chaitanya entered

into the bodies of His parents, Jagannath Mishra and Shachi-Devi. Having within her womb the Personality of Godhead, Shachi-Mata's body appeared effulgent, and it was illuminating the house of Jagannath Mishra.

(Shachi-Mata is sitting alone, sewing and singing *"Hare Krishna."* Demigods enter from above on the right side of stage. Shachi-Mata is unaware of their presence)

Demigod 1: Just look at Mother Shachi's face.

Demigod 2: Surely she has received Lord Krishna's grace!

Demigod 1: Such auspicious signs we are seeing.

Demigod 2: This child can't be an ordinary human being!

Demigod 1: I wonder what Lord Krishna has in mind?

Demigod 2: Perhaps this child has come to save mankind!

(Shachi-Mata then notices the demigods. She bows her head in respect, and the demigods exit as she does this. When she again looks up, she is confused to see they are gone; she looks for them, rubs her eyes, etc. Jagannath Mishra then enters. Shachi bows to him and brings him a plate of food)

Shachi-Mata: Prabhu, I thought I just saw some demigods there. **(she points, gazing with folded hands as if in prayer)** What is the meaning of this, please?

Jagannath: Strange things have happened to me today as well...
People offer me gifts wherever I go,
and they show me great respect.
But why, I do not know!
I was worrying that something might be wrong,
because your pregnancy is lasting so long.

Shachi-Mata: Where is my father? Has he not come with you?

Jagannath: He is following close behind. Dear wife,
you become more effulgent every day
as if the Goddess of Fortune
had come with us to stay.

(Nilambara Chakravarti enters. Shachi-Mata touches his feet and brings him a seat, food and drink)

Shachi-Mata: My dear father!

Nilambara: *Hare Krishna!*

Jagannath: Now your learned father will impart
the astrological meaning of the birth chart.
In this way some knowledge we will gain,
for the great Nilambara Chakravarti can explain.

Shachi-Mata: O father, tell us when the child will come, and why He's been so long within my womb. **(Nilambara Chakravarti begins to pull out charts, etc.)**

Jagannath: By your wisdom you can calculate
the nature of our child and His birth date.

Nilambara: Now wait my children, be patient and be still
I'll tell you if the omen's good or ill. **(looks at charts)**
Aahah, the figure of the lion does appear
both in the zodiac and in the time of birth.
And according to the influences here
a most auspicious moment to appear on earth.

Jupiter is in Sagittarius,
and Ravi, the sun, is in Aquarius.
Chandra is in the eleventh lunar house,
Ah! This my interest does arouse
In Capricorn are Shravana and Mars
A very good position for the stars.

I see the joining of so many constellations
these are most auspicious calculations,
and beyond my wildest expectations!
This child will bring the whole world jubilation!
Rahu will eclipse the moon,
and so the birth will take place soon!

SCENE THREE

Narrator: When the spotless moon of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu becomes visible, what would be the need for a moon full of black marks on its body? Lord Chaitanya was born during a total eclipse of the moon when Rahu, the black planet, covered the full moon...

(Dance scene: Rahu and Moon cavort about eventually Rahu covers the moon as stage lights black out. Meanwhile, bathers in river on other side of stage are chanting *Hare Krishna*)

SCENE FOUR

(Birth scene of Lord Chaitanya, devotee couples bring gifts. The astrologer, Nilambara, studies Lord Chaitanya's chart)

Nilambara: This child will liberate the universe by His preaching of the Vaishnava cult.
Give *prasad* to all the *brahmanas*
to celebrate His fame,
And all the assembled devotees
CHANT THE HOLY NAME!!!

(parents brings out sweets and all sing:) *JAI SHACHI-NANDANA! HARI BOL!*

(big *kirtan*)

The End